

REMARKS

Pending Claims

Claims 18, 20, and 22 – 33 are pending in this application, claims 1 - 17, 19 and 21 having been cancelled herein without prejudice, and claims 26 –33 having been added. The sole independent claim remaining in this application is claim 18. Claim 18 has been amended to include the subject matter of now cancelled claims 19 and 21. No new matter is added by way of any of these amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

Claim Rejections

The Office Action has rejected claims 1 - 3, 6 - 11, 13 - 16 and 19 - 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gietema et al. (U.S. 6222503). Claims 4 - 5, 17 and 24 - 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gietema et al. in view of Inoue et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5637963). Claims 12 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gietema et al. in view of Foissac et al. (U.S. 4656804).

These objections are respectively traversed.

Previous claims 1 to 17 are cancelled by this amendment, thus significantly simplifying the matters for consideration by the Examiner.

The sole remaining independent claim of this application, claim 18, claims a mast that has a CCTV camera carried thereby. The mast additionally incorporates or carries an antenna for a base station of a cellular telephone system. In combination with the mast is an enclosure for containing the circuitry of the base station. The enclosure also includes circuitry for use with the CCTV camera. By way of this amendment, claim 18 now further specifies that at least part of the circuitry for the base station is common with part of the circuitry for the CCTV camera, and further that the common part of the circuitry includes processing circuitry for carrying signals to or from the base station circuitry and the circuit for the CCTV camera.

Now cancelled independent claims 1 and 6 specified that part of the circuitry of the base station was common to part of the circuitry of or for controlling an item of street furniture. Now cancelled dependent claim 19 (dependent upon claim 18) also specified that part of the circuitry of the base station is common with part of the circuitry for the CCTV camera.

In response to the rejection of previous claim 19 in view of Gietema et al. alone, Applicant comments as follows.

Gietema et al. discloses an arrangement for integrating and concealing antenna in an item of street furniture. The street furniture may contain base station circuitry. The street furniture is a pole-type structure, and examples of such street furniture are street lamps, utility poles, supports for roadway signs and flag poles (see column 7 at lines 52 to 55). Gietema et al. is concerned with modifying existing structures so that an antenna can be accommodated wholly within that structure. For example, in column 7 at lines 52 to 59 it is stated:

"Since pole-type structures including street lamps, utility poles, supports for roadway signs and flag poles, are usually made of metal tubes, it has not been obvious to conceal antennas and related components inside the pole; electromagnetic radiation will not penetrate a solid metal tube. In the present invention, the tube (or sections of the tube) are made of a suitable dielectric material serving as both a radome and support."

Further, claim 1 of Gietema et al. recites a method of concealing the base station antenna in a modified component of a common object, comprising the steps of

- (a) constructing the modified component from a dielectric material;
- (b) mounting the antenna arrangement inside the modified component so that the antenna is not visible to an observer; and substituting the modified component for a normal component of the common object.

In Section 4 of the Office Action the Examiner comments that Gietema et al. discloses that part of the circuitry of the base station is common to part of the "further circuitry," but does not explicitly disclose that the further circuitry is for controlling an item of street furniture. The Office Action then asserts that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in

the art to provide control circuitry to control both the base station communication functions and an item of street furniture in order to save space and cost. The only circuitry disclosed by Gietema et al., however, is circuitry of the base station, antenna and circuitry directly related to the transmission of data thereby. There is no disclosure of circuitry for any other purpose.

The applicants have conducted a careful review of Gietema et al. and can find no disclosure of part of the circuitry of the base station being common to part of any other circuitry.

According to claim 18, at least part of the circuitry for the base station is common with part of the circuitry for a closed circuit television camera. Further, the common part of the circuitry includes processing circuitry for carrying signals to or from the base station circuitry and the circuit for the closed circuit television camera.

As discussed in the present application in the paragraph bridging pages 6 and 7:

...[T]he enclosure 24 will incorporate circuitry of some complexity for energising and controlling the CCTV camera 22, it may advantageously be possible to arrange for at least some of the circuitry for the camera and for the base station to be common - such as the power supply and perhaps some of the processing circuitry for the signals to be transmitted to and from a distant location. The use of such common circuitry enables the size of the enclosure 24 to be reduced.

Later, on pages 6 and 7 of the present application it is explained how the base station unit 29 receives input signals for controlling its operation and for carrying telecommunications signals between the base station and the central switch of the cellular telephone system (that is, signals relating to telephone calls made to and by the cellular telephones within the cell serviced by the base station). The camera also receives input signals for controlling its operation and produces output signals carrying the camera output to a central monitoring station. These input and output signals are supplied to the local fixed (PSTN) telephone network through a unit 31. The unit 31 is a signalling unit and comprises processing circuitry and carries signals to or from the base station circuitry and the circuit for the CCTV camera.

As will be appreciated, the control of the CCTV camera from a remote source (monitoring station) and the processing and transmission of the images captured by the CCTV camera for onward transmission requires significant processing. By sharing at least some of the processing circuitry which carries the signals to or from the base station and the CCTV camera the present invention advantageously reduces space required within the housing (in addition to providing other advantages).

Gietema et al. does not disclose any circuitry for controlling an item of street furniture, and much less does it disclose circuitry for controlling a complex item of street furniture such as a CCTV camera. In the street lamp embodiment disclosed by Gietema et al. if it is argued that a power supply cable is implicit within the tubular housing to allow the lamp to be illuminated, and thus constituting "circuitry" for an item of street furniture (which is not conceded), there is no disclosure, suggestion or motivation in Gietema et al. to make such "circuitry" common with the circuitry of the base station.

In summary, Gietema et al. does not disclose common circuitry between a base station and any other component. Gietema et al. does not disclose circuitry for use with an item of street furniture, and particularly not for a complex item such as a CCTV camera which requires processing of control signals and the images obtained thereby for remote control of the camera and for transmission of the images captured thereby.

In fact, Gietema et al. specifically teaches away from the present invention. As indicated above, in both the specification and claims of Gietema et al., it is specifically recited that an existing item of street furniture is modified. This is done by removing a metal part of the tubular casing and replacing this with a dielectric part which contains an antenna array. Even if the item of street furniture did include control or processing circuitry for an item of street furniture (which it does not), when modifying an existing item of street furniture to add a base station and associated antenna, modifying any control or processing circuitry of the item of street furniture to include parts which are common to circuitry of the newly added base station would significantly increase costs and complexity as the existing control/processing circuitry of the item of street furniture would require alteration. It would therefore certainly not be obvious to one of skill in the art reading the disclosure of Gietema et al. to, firstly, provide control or processing circuitry for the item of street furniture (which is not disclosed by Gietema et al.), and, further, to go to the expense of an inconvenient step

of modifying that existing circuitry to make part of it common to part of the circuitry of the base station.

In particular, the passage of column 12 at lines 15 to 27 cited in the Office Action does not disclose common circuitry between the base station and circuitry for any other purpose (and particularly not for controlling a CCTV camera). The relevant passage states:

[W]hile maintaining the appearance of the pole-like structure, the shaft 4 or body of Figure 1 encloses the supporting structure for the antenna arrays and related components such as cables, filters, amplifiers and other repeater or base station components. Alternatively, the shaft may provide the supporting structure as well.

The pedestal 5 and the base of the pole-like antennas in Figure 1 can be used to house a frequency converter for a repeater, power supplies, battery backups, control circuitry, alarm circuitry, local oscillators, etc. In some cases the pedestal and, if needed, additional space submerged below or nearby could house the equipment needed to package the entire base station or picocell using the pole-like antenna.

Whilst it could be argued that some of this circuitry disclosed is control circuitry, the control circuitry is not for controlling a CCTV camera or any other item of street furniture, and nor is it disclosed that part of this circuitry is common with the circuitry of the base station. No sharing of circuitry is disclosed.

Claim 18 before amendment was rejected as being unpatentable over Gietema et al. in view of Foissac et al. (U.S. 4656804). It is stated that it would have been obvious of one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a camera, as taught by Foissac et al., to the unobtrusive antenna system of Gietema et al. Present claim 18 does not merely relate to the combination of a base station and a CCTV camera. Amended claim 18 specifies that part of the circuitry of the base station is shared with part of the circuitry for the CCTV camera, the common part of the circuitry being processing circuitry for carrying signals to or from the base station circuitry and the circuit for the CCTV camera. A CCTV camera is a complex device. The present invention allows the CCTV camera to be controlled remotely and for images captured thereby to be distributed remotely by this processing circuitry. By making such processing

circuitry common to the circuitry of the base station, the present inventors have created an efficient and space saving arrangement. Combining the CCTV camera of Foissac et al. with the items of street furniture disclosed by Gietema et al. would not result in the present invention, and nor would it provide the advantages of the present invention. There is nothing in those two documents, when combined or taken alone, that discloses, suggests or motivates a person skilled in the art to provide the claimed shared common processing circuitry for carrying signals to or from the base station circuitry and the circuit for the CCTV camera.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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